

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. M: 26/ 48

DRAFT  
9-19-07

## 1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Thompson - Ray House (preferred name)  
other 503 Baltimore Road

## 2. Location

street and number 503 Baltimore Road not for publication  
city, town Rockville, MD 20850 vicinity  
county Montgomery

## 3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Maria C. Allende, Edward Dean  
street and number 503 Baltimore Road telephone 301-340-7086  
city, town Rockville state MD zip code 20850

## 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Montgomery liber 25171 folio 146  
city, town Rockville tax map GR42 tax parcel Block 7, Lot 41-42 tax ID number 04-00205452

## 5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District  
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District  
☒ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register (7/18/2001: Rockville Park)  
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER  
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT  
☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## 6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory  
0

## 7. Description

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### Condition

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

### Summary:

This American Foursquare house was built in 1914 by the Thompsons. It has balloon frame construction<sup>1</sup> and a pebbledash stucco exterior finish. The house sits on two narrow lots at the east end of the Rockville Park subdivision. It faces north to Baltimore Road, the main thoroughfare of East Rockville, and has a small front yard edged with shrubbery. There is a two-bay 1-1/2 story garage with a gambrel roof at the rear of the property that is accessible from the public alley. The back yard is fully enclosed with a wood privacy fence.

The house was modified in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of the 20<sup>th</sup> century from a single family dwelling to a four-unit apartment house. In the last years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the house was reconfigured once again as a single-family dwelling. Alterations associated with this effort include rear additions and replacement windows.

\* \* \* \*

### Description:

The 1914 American Foursquare style home faces North to Baltimore Road. It is located at the east side of the Rockville Park subdivision, noted for its development over time. Homes in its immediate vicinity date variously from somewhat earlier (ca. 1900) to much later (ca. 1960s) than the Thompson House, with the building styles reflective of their period of construction. Topographically, the house sits at a bend in the road, as the Baltimore Road meandered east and north from the junction of E. Montgomery Avenue and Veirs Mill Road through Norbeck and Sandy Spring on its way to Baltimore. An important pre-existing historic roadway, the Baltimore Road was a boundary feature of the Rockville Park subdivision.<sup>2</sup> An oak tree that was part of the metes and bounds for the neighboring 19<sup>th</sup> century subdivision of Janeta still stands at that corner.

The Thompson-Ray House is a 2-1/2 story American Foursquare frame house with balloon frame construction and a painted pebbledash stucco exterior finish. There is a full-width two-bay front porch, and a one-story rectangular bay window on the west façade. At the rear, a one-story rear porch has been fully enclosed, and a second-story rear-gable addition has been added above. The new work at the rear has vinyl siding. The porch soffit and the 2<sup>nd</sup> story soffit are flat and particularly wide. The band under the soffit is also very wide, and this is also echoed with the wide porch architrave. The main roof is pyramidal in form, and there is a single hipped-roof dormer on the front (n) façade with wide soffit and band to match that of the principal roof. The house was modified in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of the 20<sup>th</sup> century from a single family dwelling to a four-unit apartment house. In the last years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the house was reconfigured once again as a single-family dwelling. Rear additions date to this effort, with a kitchen addition at the first floor level, and a master bedroom suite cantilevered above. On the interior, the living room and dining room have been unified as one room, and there are replacement windows as well.

### Principal Façade (North)

As a typical American Foursquare, this façade is organized with a side-hall entry. There is no driveway from Baltimore Road, and one approaches the house from the street by a concrete sidewalk to a broad set of stairs leading to the full-width front porch. Three Tuscan columns, each with a neck band and shallow rounded capital under a small rectangular capping plate, hold up the plain architrave. The porch railing has simple rectangular pickets, but the posts for the stairs have a ball cap. The porch roof has broad eaves. The house is sided with pebbledash stucco, with plain wood trim around the openings. There are four stacked openings, or bays, on both the first and second floors but they are spaced to form two groupings that reflect the interior plan. At

<sup>1</sup> Joe Dulaney, telephone call 8-30-07. He owned the house from 1997 to 2003, and exposed the interior framing during the rehabilitation of the property.

<sup>2</sup> William Reading tried to change the name to John Street. See Reading's 1<sup>st</sup> Addition to Rockville, March 1888 (JA 13/124): "John Street formerly called Baltimore Road." The 1890 Plat of Rockville Park (JA 17/268) also has the street labeled as "John Street."

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the attic level, there is a wide pyramidal dormer with three small windows organized with two small square windows flanking a central rectangular window (a-b-a). This is the only dormer in the roof, and it has wide eaves and a deep band, similar to that of the roof at the second story. The eaves at the second story, however, are the widest at the house. The soffits are painted narrow wood strips, and support the gutter system as well as the roof. The original windows have been replaced with new 1/1 windows all around except for the three principal windows on the first floor. These have a top sash evocative of the Arts and Crafts movement, with four central lights surrounded with a narrow-light border, over a single-light bottom sash. The front door is original to the house, and has a 3/4s oval window divided into 4 lights. It is set in an ornamental wood frame with applied wood floral swags at each corner.<sup>3</sup>

### Left (East) Façade

This façade includes the original house with its pebbledash stucco finish, and the 2-story rear addition with vinyl siding. The original roofline and eaves have been matched in the rear addition, although the wide band under the eaves has not been brought across the new addition. The window openings on the first and second floors appear to originally have been stacked, but the original window openings at the first floor level and stairway have been altered. At the second story, there are two windows, spaced widely to provide one window in each bedroom. At the first floor level, the opening at the left side has been filled in with a pebbledash finish and a small exhaust fan vent added. A smaller 1-light window has been installed to the left of this original opening. At the center of this façade, a tall narrow window with very wide exterior trim has been added at the stairway. This window includes a top 1-light window for 2/3s of the height, and a smaller 1-light window at the bottom third. Below this window, there is a pebbledash stucco patch indicating, most likely, that a door was removed and replaced with this window. The original right-side window has also been removed and patched over, and a smaller double-hung window [for a bathroom] added, set to the original window height.

The rear addition is two-story, and the upper story overhangs the first story to provide cover for an open rear porch/deck. There is one window at the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor level set close to the original part of the house. A downspout provides additional reinforcement of the division between the old and new work.

### Rear (South) Façade

One third of the original south façade is exposed, due to the construction of a kitchen (1<sup>st</sup> floor) and master bedroom (2<sup>nd</sup> floor) addition at the east 2/3s. One window at the second floor level is stacked about a new sliding glass door that opens on the rear deck.

The rear gable addition has square-cut wood shingles in the gable end, whimsically decorated at the bottom with a double row of fishscale shingles. To match the existing roof, the rear addition matched the wide eaves, resulting in the apparent "kick" at the roof's edge. A set of triplet 1/1 windows is centered at the second story, with wood trim. The first floor has a paired set of 1/1 windows to the left of a pair of full-light French doors. The second story is supported with simple posts at the east and west corners and cantilevers over the first floor. This provides a shaded porch area at the back door, and an open deck area in the ell between the original house and the new addition where the wood flooring is extended the full length of the house and beyond the south edge of the second floor. The south façade of the bay window off the original dining room is evident, with its wide eave, matching heavy band, and a 1/1 window. The bay window has a shallow hipped roof and projects out from the west wall approximately three-and-one-half feet. It rests on a brick foundation, with the water table above.

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<sup>3</sup> The same door is used at 305 Baltimore Road, although it has been painted; information from Joe Dulaney 9-5-07.

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### Right (West) Façade

The right façade had three windows spaced at the second floor level. The center window has been filled in and a smaller [bathroom] window installed slightly off-center towards the north. At the first floor level, the left windows are stacked, while the second floor right window is centered over the paired set of windows in the projecting bay.

### Interior

The entry hall is a generous rectangular room. To the left of the front door is a narrow closet abutting a powder room in the corner of the hall, the door to which is angled. To the right of the front door, there is a pair of French doors leading into the front parlor. Directly ahead is a single leaf doors leading into a rear hall and kitchen. The door to the basement is immediately inside this doorway and on the left. This intermediary hall leads to the dogleg stairway to the left. Another doorway to the right leads into the rear parlor. The original kitchen is straight ahead; this has been enlarged with a rear addition. The original rear wall of the house has been removed, but its location is evident in the floor and ceiling.

The rear parlor includes the bay window on the west façade as well as a fireplace on its east wall. The mantel, consisting of stacked classical moldings, was added to the house by Mr. Dulaney. The fireplace location is original to the house. The wall between the front and back parlors has been removed so that the west part of the house is one large continuous room. The original wall was extra wide for pocket doors. The location of this wall is still legible in the floor.

The dogleg stairway runs from the small interior hall (at the edge of the kitchen) to a landing with a long narrow window. The lower leg of the stairs is original to the house, but was taken from the front hall and reset at the kitchen.<sup>4</sup> The stair railing to the newel post at the second floor level is a replacement. The lower newel post is Victorian Italianate and was salvaged from another [unrelated] site; the lower handrail is molded, with rounded shaft pickets with turned drops above squared bases. The newel post at the second floor level is original to the house and in the Colonial Revival style, with a simple square shape with a dentil band for decoration. The second floor pickets are new and the same as the lower pickets, but the handrail is original to the house; it is molded and has reeding and is stained a dark color.

At the second floor level, the house retains much of its original layout and woodwork. The house includes two front bedrooms, a bathroom in the hall (west side) and stairs to the attic (east side). The bedroom in the southeast corner has been converted to provide the transition into the master bedroom suite, which is in the new rear addition. The old SE bedroom now includes a utility area (washer and dryer) and the new master bath. The memory of the rear wall is retained in the floor and ceiling. The original soffit has also been retained and provides the transition into the new room. The rear bedroom in the southwest corner remains.

The attic room is accessible by steep stairs, and has light from the front roof dormer. The ceiling has been opened to the underside of the roof. The room is "L" shaped, and a small bathroom has been installed to one side of the stairway. A window seat is a "built-in" at the dormer windows.

### Basement

The basement walls are poured concrete, with the sections poured in ca. 18" intervals. The walls have been painted. Evident in the basement ceiling are angled boards used as underlayment for the first floor finish material. The floor joists are reinforced with cross-blocking. The basement floor is concrete.

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<sup>4</sup> Information from Joe Dulaney. The stairway originally had this small flight to the landing, with a similar back flight into the kitchen. When the Dulaney's purchased the house, this back flight of steps was enclosed in a closet.

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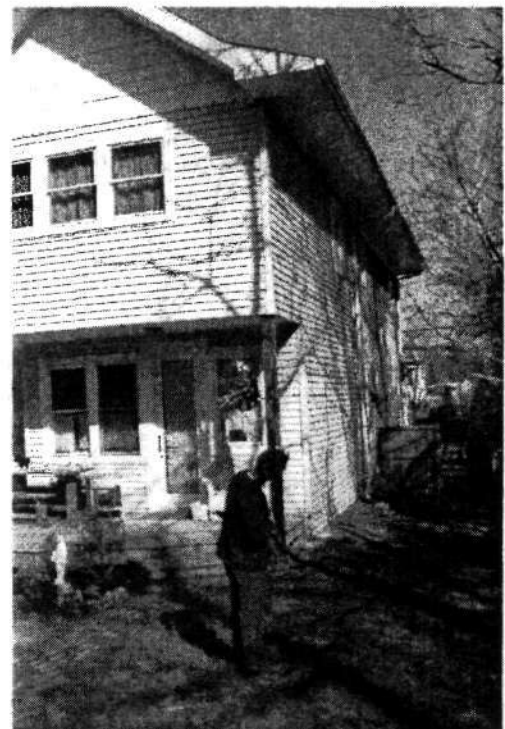
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### Garage Outbuilding

The mid-20<sup>th</sup> century two-bay garage sits at the southeast corner of the property. The garage, with its parking area, is separated from the back yard by a tall wood privacy fence that engages its northwest corner. There is a single doorway in its north façade, providing access to the garage from the back yard. There are two automobile bays in the west façade, with overhead doors with small glass panes at eye level. The building has a gambrel roof and there are stairs on the interior of the south façade for access to the second story. The garage is accessible from the alley off of Maple. This garage building is not original to the site.<sup>5</sup>



Principal Façade (North)



Left (East) Façade

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<sup>5</sup> See Sanborn map, 1949, for placement of an earlier garage or Auto house.



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Rear (South) Façade



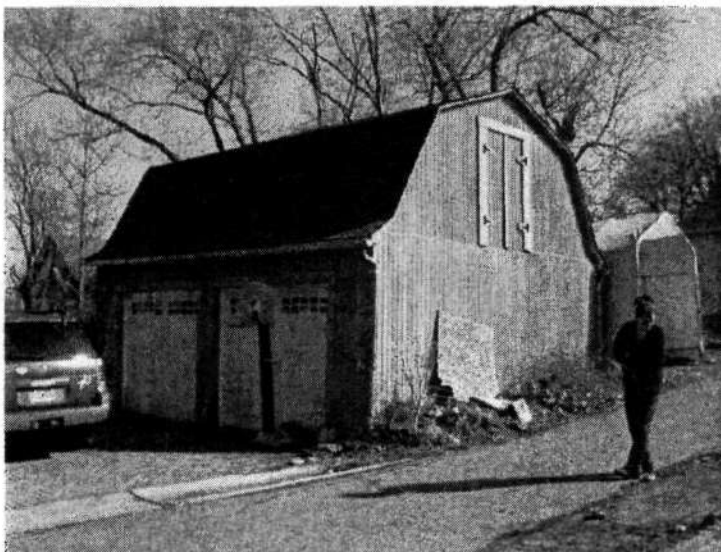
Right (West) Façade

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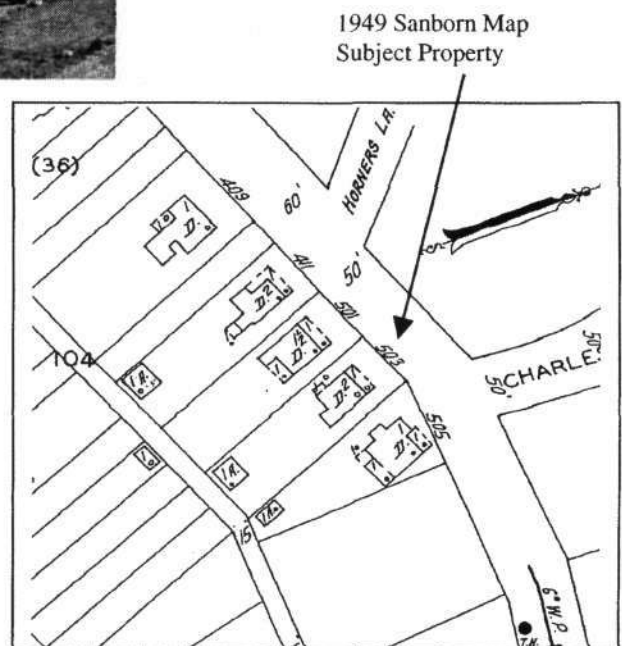
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Garage  
South and West elevations

Flooring inlay identifying pocket door wall location  
between Living Room and Dining Room



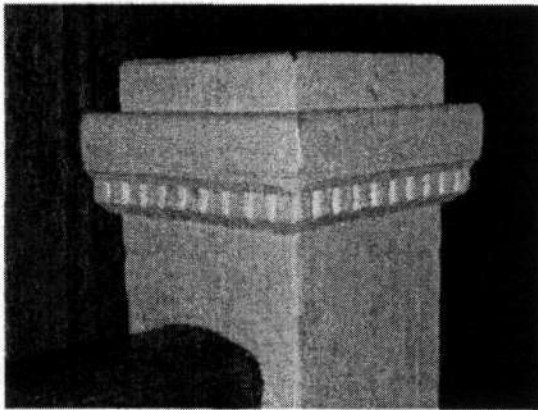
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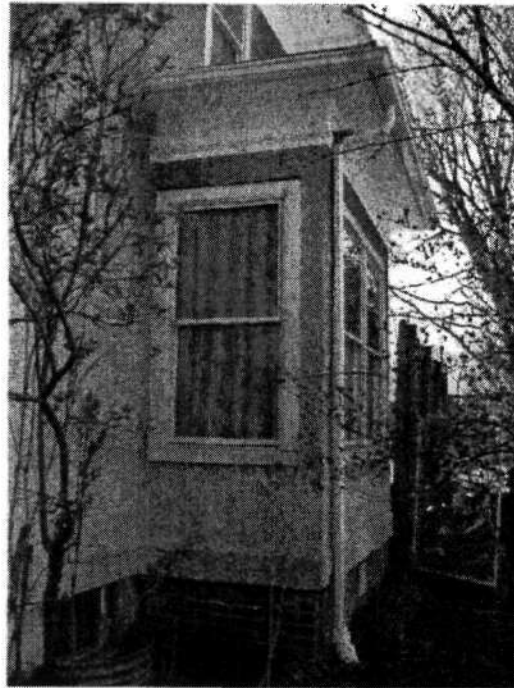
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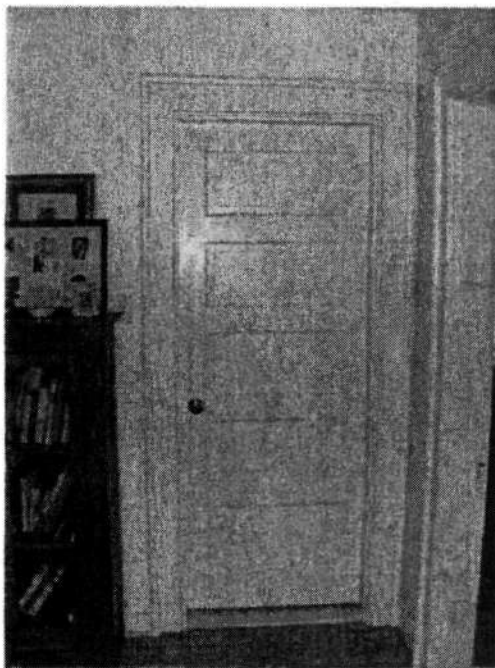
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2<sup>nd</sup> floor newel post  
(original)



One-story bay window on  
West Elevation



2<sup>nd</sup> floor interior door (typical  
and original)



## 8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____

**Specific dates** 1914 - 1960 **Architect/Builder** Walter S. Thompson

**Construction dates** 1914

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☒ Maryland Register

☐ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

### Summary

Located at the east end of the Rockville Park subdivision, this American Foursquare frame house is associated with the development history of the City of Rockville in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The lots were purchased as real estate investments, from platting in 1890 to the construction of the house in 1914 by the Thompsons. The house is a good example of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century American Foursquare style with the pebbledash stucco exterior finish, a widely used finish at this time. From 1922 to 1960, the house was owned by successive generations of the George & Alice Ray family. They participated in the early investment activity here and ultimately decided to make it their home. The Thompson-Ray House also contributes to the overall setting of the 500 block of Baltimore Road, which remains residential in character, with mature trees, similar setbacks, and dwellings of varying styles that combine to create a physical expression of the neighborhood's historic development. The property is being nominated for Historical and Cultural Significance C: exemplifies the cultural, economic, social, political or historic heritage of the County and its communities; Historical and Cultural Significance D: has character, interest, or value as part of the development, heritage or cultural characteristics of the City, County, State, or Nation; and Architectural and Design Significance A: embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period or method of construction. The period of significance for this property is 1890 – 1960, beginning with the platting of the Rockville Park subdivision. It includes the construction date of the house, and the years associated with the Ray Family.

### Narrative

[Rockville Park subdivision] As a young doctor in the Town of Rockville, 1855 was a year of change for Dr. Edward Elisha Stonestreet and his wife Adelaide. In that year, his parents moved out of Rockville and sold their home on E. Montgomery Avenue at Monroe Street to Dr. Stonestreet. They also sold a 31+ acre property located east of town along the Baltimore Road to Dr. Stonestreet for \$1,000.<sup>6</sup> This property was just one of several parcels of land owned by Dr. Stonestreet.<sup>7</sup>

When the Metropolitan Line of the B&O Railroad (1866-1873 completed) came to Rockville, it ran through Dr. Stonestreet's 31+ acre property, and several acres were sold to support the construction of the railroad. In 1884, Dr. Stonestreet sold the remaining 28-5/8 acre parcel to a Washington developer, William Reading, for \$4,293.75.<sup>8</sup> The property was adjacent to the tracks and convenient to the railroad station on the North side of Baltimore Road at the railroad crossing with Baltimore Road.

<sup>6</sup> J.G.H.4/236 (3.29/1855)

<sup>7</sup> See G.M. Hopkins 1879 *Atlas of Fifteen Miles Around Washington including the County of Montgomery*; Rockville detail.

<sup>8</sup> E.B.P. 32/225 (4/3/1884); the railroad ROW accounts for the remaining 3+ acres.

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Informally, the subdivision was first known as Readington although Reading filed it as *Reading's 1<sup>st</sup> Addition to Rockville*. It included 52 lots that ranged in size from 12,000 to 22,000 sf.<sup>9</sup> Some of the lots were quickly sold but in March 1890, Reading sold the remaining property to Washington and Mary Frances Danenhower for \$10,000.<sup>10</sup> The entire subdivision was then redesigned and replatted as *Rockville Park*.<sup>11</sup> The number of lots overall was increased from 52 to 210. Streets were renamed, and streets and alleys were realigned to accommodate the new layout. Interspersed among the 25' wide lots were several properties that had been previously sold by Wm. Reading and platted with 80' – 100' street frontage.<sup>12</sup> Lot sizes varied, but in general the Danenhowers offered lots reduced in size to ca. 3,000 s.f., with widths as narrow as 25' road frontage. A typical rectangular lot measured 25' x 130', and sold for \$75.<sup>13</sup>

With the Metropolitan Railroad, property in and around Rockville provided an investment opportunity for existing residents and for residents of Washington D.C.<sup>14</sup> Many lots in the new Rockville Park subdivision were sold by and to people from Washington. While there were no laws restricting construction of a house on a 25' wide lot at the time and single lots were sold, buyers typically paid \$150 for two lots to provide 50' road frontage. Other sales included non-contiguous lots throughout the subdivision. In 1896, for example, the Danenhowers sold 18 lots in Blocks 7 and 4 [including the subject property] to James and Maggie Barker of the District of Columbia.<sup>15</sup> Just one year later, the Barkers sold all of these lots to Ms. Louisa Westervelt.<sup>16</sup>

When Ms. Westervelt sold the bulk of these lots in 1907, she is described in the deed as "a spinster of Washington City."<sup>17</sup> At this time, Ms. Westervelt sold lots 39 – 42, Block 7 in 1907 to Jacob Poss, a former Councilman with the Town of Rockville (1892-1896).<sup>18</sup> In 1913, Poss sold these 4 lots to Mr. Thompson. At that time, the sale was for unimproved land. In 1914, however, the tax assessment identified the land value at \$300 and improvements at \$1700, reflecting the construction of a house.<sup>19</sup> Three years later, Walter and Bessie Thompson sold the property (lots 39-42) to George F. and Alice V. Ray.<sup>20</sup> They purchased the adjacent trapezoidal shaped lot 43 the following month.<sup>21</sup> Until 1927, as reflected in the deeds, lots 39-43 were sold as a unit. In 1919, they sold the property, consisting of five lots with the house on Lots 41-42.

Three transactions and three years later, they bought back the property.<sup>22</sup> Thereafter, for the next four decades, George F. & Alice V. Ray and then their children are associated with these lots. In 1923/4, a small bungalow was built on Lots 39-40. In 1927, the subject property, at 503 Baltimore Road, was sold to their son, George F. Ray, Jr. and his wife, Nannie A. Ray. Four years later,

<sup>9</sup> J.A.13/124. See adjacent Janeta plat with "Readington" noted [JA 6/483].

<sup>10</sup> JA 17/268 (3/26/1890) for \$10,000 - The Danenhowers lived in Washington, D.C. They were active in the development of Rockville as a commuter community, also filing the subdivision for Spring Lake Park [formerly part of the Higgins Farm].

<sup>11</sup> Plat Book A, p.53, referring to J.A.17/268 (4/12/1890).

<sup>12</sup> See deed description JA 17/269, exempting Albert S. Dalby, Charles W. Sage, Margaretta Welch, Wallace Ricketts, Alberta Kindon, and Henlen Morton from this conveyance.

<sup>13</sup> Danenhower sold Lot 43 to Henry O. Hall \$150 in 1897 (JA34/361), but this angled lot has 70' road frontage.

<sup>14</sup> See, for example, *Peerless Rockville*, Henry N. Copp, October 1890.

<sup>15</sup> JA51/486 (1/22/1896)

<sup>16</sup> JA60/236 (10/4/1897)

<sup>17</sup> 192/343 (3/9/1907). In this sale, the cost for each lot averaged out to \$25/lot.

<sup>18</sup> Jacob Poss would also serve on the Council from 1910 – 1916. He owned Poss Livery and supplied transportation from the Railroad to hotels or anywhere in town (*Rockville, Portrait of a City*, E. McGuckian, p. 78), and he also invested in real estate.

<sup>19</sup> 1914 Tax Assessment (T221-43)

<sup>20</sup> 262/273 (3/24/1917).

<sup>21</sup> 262/370 (4/16/1917).

<sup>22</sup> See Deed Research, below.

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it was sold to George Jr.'s sisters, Mamie Thompson and Lulie Cakroy Duvall. Six months later, Mamie and her husband, William H. Thompson, sold the property to her sister, Rosa Lee Howes and her father, George F. Ray, Sr. Two years after this, the property was sold back to George F. Ray, Jr. and Nannie A. Ray. They held this property for the next 26 years.

A second house, Minimal Traditional in style with a pebbledash stucco finish, was built on the adjacent Lot 43 ca. 1925. George F. Ray, Sr. and Alice Bogley Ray sold this to their son, Eleazar Ray and his wife, Mabel J. Ray.<sup>23</sup> All of these homes at 501, 503 and 505 Baltimore Road are therefore associated with George F. and Alice Bogley Ray and their children.

*The Ray Family:* George Ray was part of an old Montgomery County farm family, although his particular branch has been traced only to his father, William H. Ray (1818 – 1880).<sup>24</sup> His mother was Virginia De Lafayette Ward (1824-1901), and she was also part of a large Montgomery County farm family. His wife, Alice Bogley Ray, was related to another old Rockville family. The Fava Naeff map (1890) indicates that the Bogleys owned farmland on the east side of the railroad tracks. George Ray and his family illustrate the population shift in Montgomery County during the 20<sup>th</sup> century, from primarily agricultural to primarily suburban. This shift over time resulted from the sale of family farms as farmers retired or their children moved into other professions. George and Alice Ray grew up during the Civil War era. Married in 1885, they raised their large family on their farm north and east of Rockville, at a time when the first railroad communities were being developed in conjunction with rapid transportation provided by trains and then trolleys, of which Rockville had both. The Rays raised their 10 children on their farm,<sup>25</sup> and then retired to Rockville when George was in his 60's.

The ownership history for the subject property seems to indicate that this process took several years, with the Rays investing and selling property in the period just after World War I. The 1918 telephone book for Rockville identifies George F. Ray's home as "Baltimore Road East end."<sup>26</sup> Yet, he sold this property one year later, and then bought it back in 1922.

Rockville was also home to other Ray family members: George's younger brother, Phillip Hick Ray (1862 – 1934), served as the Judge of the Orphans Court; and another brother, Eleazar Ray (and his wife Eliza Earp Ray) purchased the property at 315 Baltimore Road in 1922.<sup>27</sup> At his death in 1927, Eleazar's daughter Lillie Moore Ray Bogley and her husband, Walter Moore Bogley,<sup>28</sup> bought the property for her mother, Eliza Earp Ray, and two unmarried sisters, Blanche and Annolea Ray. The property was then deeded to the two sisters. They lived here until they died; Annolea died first and Blanche died in 1956.<sup>29</sup>

The Rays have continued to live and contribute to Rockville. Their son, George F. Ray, Jr. (1902 – 1986) worked both in construction and in downtown Rockville, as the owner of the local laundry. While their daughter, Rose, married George Howes and moved back to a farm, her younger sister, Pearl Elizabeth, married Forrest King and purchased the house at 300 Baltimore Road when Walter and Bessie Thompson sold it in the 1940s.

*The Thompson Family:* The 1910 Census records Walter S. Thompson (age 30) and his wife, Bessie, living on Horners Lane with their 2 year old daughter, Louise. Subsequently, they had a son, Leslie. Walter S. Thompson worked as a Post Office clerk at the

<sup>23</sup> 454/320 (3/7/1928). They owned this property until 1947.

<sup>24</sup> George F. Ray (1856 – 1939; age 83); Alice V. Bogley Ray (1863 – 1932; age 69).

<sup>25</sup> 1910 Census lists George as a General Farmer in Laytonsville. District I. The 1920 Census indicates that the family lives on their own farm in the Olney District, 1<sup>st</sup> Precinct.

<sup>26</sup> Nelson's *Washington Suburban Directory* 1918.

<sup>27</sup> This property was designated as a local Historic District in 2005.

<sup>28</sup> His older sister, Alice V. Bogley, married George Ray Sr., and so she was his sister and also his aunt by marriage.

<sup>29</sup> See City of Rockville MHT form for 315 Baltimore Road.

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City of Rockville, and he retired in 1933 with 30 years of service. As a sideline, he invested in real estate and homebuilding. For example, he bought "Homewood" with its surrounding property in 1917, and sold it in 1924.<sup>30</sup> He is known to have built at least three pebbledash stucco Foursquare homes on Baltimore Road (#503 in 1914, #300 in 1926, #304 in 1929). Somewhat younger than George Ray Sr., their families were intertwined as neighbors and through marriage.<sup>31</sup> When Walter and Bessie Thompson sold 300 Baltimore Road in 1943, it was George and Alice's daughter, Pearl and her husband Forrest King, who bought it.<sup>32</sup>

*The American Foursquare:* This was a popular architectural style that was "introduced in 1890 and a fixture by 1930."<sup>33</sup> With its compact massing, the Foursquare provided a three- or four-bedroom house that was easy to build. The American Foursquare typically had a hipped roof with a hipped roof dormer on the front façade, and a full-width front porch. Related to the Prairie Style, the American Foursquare also often had wide eaves and might have a variety of siding materials. The description of an American Foursquare offered for sale by the Aladdin House Company describes this as "a big, square, sensibly-designed house with finished details to lend a pleasing appearance."<sup>34</sup> The prototypical American Foursquare was almost square in footprint and massing, and typically had four rooms on each floor, including the entry hall. By altering the size of the second floor bedrooms, one could have three or four bedrooms. The pebbledash stucco finish was also a popular finish for this style and was seen as something closer to stone, and a grade up from painted wood siding.<sup>35</sup> Pebbledash stucco consists of exposed aggregate in an exterior plaster, or stucco, base. It can be applied to a masonry, structural clay tile or wood and lath substrate. It was variously painted or left exposed.

### *Applicable criteria:*

The property is eligible for designation under (I) Historical and Cultural Significance Criterion C: exemplifies the cultural, economic, social, political or historic heritage of the County and its communities; (I) Historical and Cultural Significance D: has character, interest, or value as part of the development, heritage or cultural characteristics of the City, County, State, or Nation; and (II) Architectural and Design Significance Criterion A: embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period or method of construction.

Under Criteria I-C & I-D: The property represents the early 20<sup>th</sup> century development of East Rockville and Rockville Park with a popular style of the day. The families associated with this property are associated with other properties in the neighborhood previously identified as significant, such as Homewood or 315 Baltimore Road. The Ray and Thompson families were farmers, and illustrate the external and internal forces at work in the development of Rockville at this time. Through their long-term

<sup>30</sup> *Montgomery County Sentinel* Dec. 14, 1923: "Walter S. Thompson of this town recently sold his handsome home & 4 acres of land to a New York man and has begun the erection of an up-to-date bungalow on a lot adjoining the property."

[421 Reading, now demolished.] Homewood is a local Historic District in Janeta, east of the subject property.

<sup>31</sup> Alice's brother's son Lester Bogley, married Walter and Bessie's daughter, Louise, in 1929. The 1911 marriage of George and Alice's daughter, Mamie, to William Thompson may be a coincidence, as there are many Thompsons in Montgomery County and William Thompson's relationship to Walter S. Thompson is not known.

<sup>32</sup> 904/316; 3-25-1943.

<sup>33</sup> *National Register Bulletin: Historic Residential Suburbs*, p. 56.

<sup>34</sup> *1913 Catalogue*, page 32, Aladdin House Co. At this time, a wide variety of styles were used for residential construction, including Colonial Revival, Arts and Crafts, Bungalow, and Foursquare. While many homes were still architect-designed, all of these styles were also offered by all of the mail order companies of the day, including Sears, Roebuck Co. (1908), Aladdin House Co. (1906), and Gordon-Van Tine (1910).

<sup>35</sup> There are five American Foursquare homes on Baltimore Road. Four of them have a stucco exterior finish. See Charles L. Eastlake, *Hints on Household Taste* (1878) p. 27; comment on his distaste for stucco.



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residence in East Rockville, association with multiple properties in East Rockville, and through inter-marriage, both families contributed to the development of East Rockville.<sup>36</sup>

With regard to Community Planning, the investment history for this property illustrates the typical development pattern for Rockville Park. Multiple lots were purchased and sold as investment property. At the point where a house was constructed, multiple lots provided both garden space as well as investment potential, to be realized at some future date. In addition, the builder of this house also built at least three other similar homes on the same street, participating in the overall development of this part of Rockville. The development history of this property also illustrates Rockville's ties with the greater metropolitan area, including Washington, D.C., and Montgomery County.

Under Criterion II-A: The property illustrates the American Foursquare, a popular early 20<sup>th</sup> century architectural style, with its associated pebbledash stucco finish. The houses at 503, 300 and 304 Baltimore Road are all variations on the American Foursquare, and were all constructed by Walter S. and Bessie Thompson.

### *Integrity:*

The property at 503 Baltimore Road has a reasonably high level of integrity based on location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. There have been some alterations at the property, including replacement of original windows, and a rear addition. Many original features remain, however, including original location, massing and design, exterior finish, interior and exterior trim, interior doors, etc. Despite the alterations, the property continues to evoke qualities and character of its day. It also contributes to the collection of American Foursquare homes in Rockville and, in particular, along Baltimore Road.

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<sup>36</sup> *Historic Resources Management Plan*, Context #6: Maturation And Expansion of the County Seat: 1873-1931; and National Register Bulletin: *Historic Residential Suburbs*.



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### Lots 41-42: 503 Baltimore Road [1914]

Liber/Folio	Date	Grantor	Grantee
25171/146	2003	Joseph & Susan Dulany	<b>Maria C Allende &amp; Edward Dean</b>
14990/659	June 1997	Harris Savings Association	Joseph & Susan Dulany
14314/260	July 1996  [For \$130,975]	Cheryl L. Witt & Stephen R. Jones via Substitute Trustees with Civil Case #150268	Harris Savings Association
8151/135 [Lots 41-42]	1988 [For \$137,500.]	Edward Morse & Beverly A. Morse	Cheryl L. Witt & Stephen R. Jones
7452/759 [Lots 41-42]	1986 [For \$67,000]	Grace A. Atwell	Edward Morse & Beverly A. Morse
2745/266 [Lots 41-42]	1960	George F. Ray, Jr. and Nannie A. Ray, his wife	Frederick J. & Grace A. Atwell
572/255 [Lots 41-42]	1934	George F. Ray, Sr. and Rosa Lee Howes and George W. Howes, her husband	George F. Ray, Jr. and Nannie A. Ray, his wife
538/362 [Lots 41-42]	June 1932	Mamie Ray Thompson & William H. Thompson, her husband	George F. Ray, Sr. and Rosa Lee Howes
538/275 [Lots 41-42]	January 1932	George F. Ray, Jr. & Nannie A. Ray (wife)	Lulie Cakroy Duvall & Mamie Thompson (her sister)
P.B.R. 448/74 [Lots 41-42]	1927	George F. & Alice V. Ray	George F. Ray, Jr. & Nannie A. Ray (wife)
320/311 [Lots 39-43]	Sept 1922	James P.B. Veirs	<b>George F. &amp; Alice V. Ray</b>
P.B.R. 314/419 [Lots 39-43]	May 1922	James P. & L. Pearl Gott	James P.B. Veirs

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304/278 [Lots 39 - 43]	1921	Francis Hazel & Ella V. F. Cashell	James P. Gott
278/115 [Lots 39 - 43]	1919	George & Alice Ray	Francis Hazel & Ella V. F. Cashell
262/273 [Lots 39 - 42]	1917	Walter S. & Bessie M. Thompson	<b>George F. and Alice V. Ray</b>
236/73 [Lots 39 - 42]	1913	Jacob Poss	<b>Walter S. Thompson</b> [1914 taxes jump from \$300 to \$1700]
192/343 [Lots 39-42]	1907	Louisa Westervelt (DC Spinster)	Jacob Poss
JA 60/236 [Lots 39-42]	1897 [+ Lots 6-7,10-12, 14, 16-17, 32-36 in Bl 7 + Lots 1-2, 27 Bl 4]	James C. and Maggie Barker	Louisa Westervelt
JA 51/486 [Lots 39-42]	1896 [+ Lots 6-7,10-12,14,16-17, 32-36 - Bl. 7; + Lots 7-8, Bl.4]	Danenhower	James C. and Maggie Barker

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Continuation Sheet

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### Lot 43: 505 Baltimore Road [1923/4]

Liber/Folio	Date	Grantor	Grantee
9831/143	[?]	Robert Francis & Betty J. McGonnell	Richard M. & Paula L. Hoffman Weissenfluh
4636/299	1975	Robert F. & Grace S. Springer and Mark Springer	Robert Francis & Betty J. McGonnell
4356/443	1973	Ronald H. & Joanne T. Miller	Robert F. & Grace S. Springer and Mark Springer
3855/494	1969	Frederick W. & LaVonne O. Berens	Ronald H. & Joanne T. Miller
3830/863	1969	Ralph E. & Vermont Franklin	Frederick W. & LaVonne O. Berens
2414/477	1957	John M. & Ruth Ann D. Darling	Ralph E. & Vermont Franklin
1572/409	1951	Howard S. & Hazel M. Musgrove, Jr.	John M. & Ruth Ann D. Darling
1084/202	1947	Eleazar & Mabel J. Ray	Howard S. & Hazel M. Musgrove, Jr.
454/320	1928	George F. & Alice V. Ray	Eleazar & Mabel J. Ray "Eleazar Ray of George"
262/370	1917	Henry O. & Emma A. Hall	Alice V. Ray
J.A. 34/361	1892	Washington & Mary Frances Danenhower	Henry O. & Emma A. Hall

# Maryland Historical Trust

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### Lots 39-40: 501 Baltimore Road [1927]

Liber/Folio	Date	Grantor	Grantee
14365/435	9/12/1996	Gino. B. Bardi	Vijay & V. Kushawaha
4598/846	12/12/1974	Osborn	Gino. B. Bardi
2653/542	9/1959	Milton F. & Alice Clogg	Osborn
2028/442	3/1955	Collins	Clogg
1124/273	12/1947	George Warren Howes, Merle Lee Howes, Rosie Lee Howes, George W. Howes (husband of Rosie Lee H)	Collins
989/183	10/31/1945 2:48 pm	Emily T. Cashell, unmarried	Howes (Rosie Lee H., George Warren H., Merle Lee H.)
989/182	10/31/1945 2:45 pm	George F. Ray Sr. and Rosie Lee Howes	Emily T. Cashell, unmarried
678/71	7/1937	Nettie Elizabeth Ray, Pearl E. King and Forest King, Annie M. Miller and Arthur Miller	George F. Ray Sr. and Rosie Lee Howes
CKW 642/481	3/1936	George F. Ray, Sr.	Nettie Elizabeth Ray (his wife); and at her death, to Pearl E. King and Annie M. Miller
CKW 592/206	5/1935	Eugene B. Gingell & Annie E. Gingell	George F. Ray, Sr.
422/171	3/1927	George F. Ray, Sr. and Alice V. Ray	Eugene B. Gingell & Annie E. Gingell
320/311	8/1922	James P.B. Veirs, unmarried	<b>George F. Ray, Sr. and Alice V. Ray</b>

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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Maryland Land Records (Montgomery County)

State Tax Assessment Records, Annapolis

National Register Bulletin: *Historic Residential Suburbs*, David L. Ames & Linda Flint McClelland, NPS, 2002

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 8,500 sf

Acreage of historical setting 8,500 sf

Quadrangle name Rockville (MD, VA)

Quadrangle scale: \_\_\_\_\_

### Verbal boundary description and justification

Rockville Park Subdivision, Block 7, Lot 41-42

Justification: As described in the most recent deed at Liber 2517/ Folio 146

## 11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Robin D. Ziek, Preservation Planner		
organization	City of Rockville	date	August 2007
street & number	111 Maryland Avenue	telephone	240-314-8200
city or town	Rockville	state	Maryland

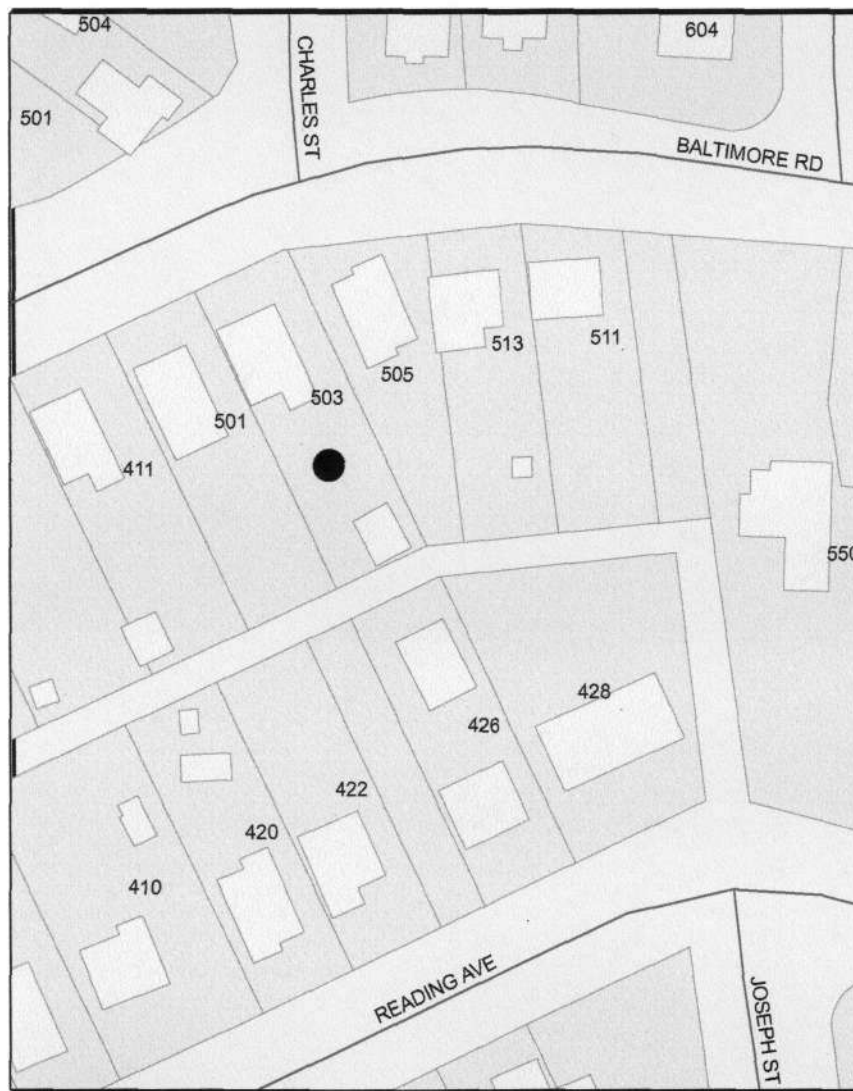
The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to:

Maryland Historical Trust  
Maryland Department of Planning  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023  
410-514-7600



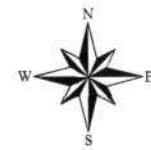


This American Foursquare has its original pebbledash stucco finish. It was built in 1914 by Walter and Bessie Thompson. They also built at least two other American Foursquare homes on Baltimore Road (#300, 304). The property is also associated with the George and Alice Ray family, who lived here for almost 40 years through successive generations.



CITY OF ROCKVILLE  
COMMUNITY PLANNING  
AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

**THOMPSON-RAY HOUSE**  
**503 Baltimore Road**



M: 26-48

M: 26-48

M: 26-48  
Thompson-Ray House  
503 Baltimore Road  
Rockville, MD  
USGS Rockville Quad

